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1. A portable data terminal for use in a portable data collection network including a backbone network and a plurality of access points coupled to the backbone network, the portable data terminal comprising:

a barcode reader for inputting barcode information;

a speaker; and

a voice circuit operatively coupled to the RF transceiver and the speaker

2. The portable data terminal of claim 1, wherein the voice circuit

3. The portable data terminal of claim 2, wherein the memory stores

4. The portable data terminal of claim 3, further comprising a display

5. The portable data terminal of claim 1, further comprising a

6. The portable data terminal of claim 1, wherein a device coupled to

a barcode reader for inputting barcode information;
 an RF transceiver for wirelessly communicating at least one of data input via the keypad and barcode information read by the barcode reader to the backbone network by way of at least one of the plurality of access points;
 a microphone; and
 a voice circuit operatively coupled to the RF transceiver and the microphone for transmitting voice data obtained from the microphone via the RF transceiver.

18. The portable data terminal of claim 17, wherein the voice circuit is operative to transmit the same voice data to a plurality of different devices via the RF transceiver.

19. The portable data terminal of claim 14, wherein in the conversation state the voice data is digitized and compressed prior to being included in packets and transmitted by the RF transceiver.

20. A portable data terminal, comprising:
 input means for inputting data;
 an RF transceiver for transmitting data input via the input means to a remote location;
 a memory;
 a speaker;
 a control circuit, operatively coupled to the RF transceiver and the speaker, for receiving voice data via the RF transceiver, storing the voice data in the memory as at least one voice mail message, and for selectively converting the at least one voice mail message to a voice signal which is output through the speaker;
 a display for displaying indicia of the at least one voice mail message stored in the memory; and
 an input operatively coupled to the control circuit for selecting the at least one voice mail message to be converted based on the indicia on the display.

21. The portable data terminal of claim 20, wherein the display presents the indicia on the display as lines of text, with different lines representing different voice mail messages.

22. The portable data terminal of claim 21, where the input controls the position of a cursor shown on the display in relation to the lines of text.

23. A portable data collection network, comprising:
a hardwired backbone network;
a plurality of access points coupled to the backbone network;
a plurality of portable data terminals, each of the plurality of portable data terminals comprising:

input means for inputting data;

an RF transceiver for communicating with at least one device coupled to the backbone network via at least one of the plurality of access points, the RF transceiver being configured to communicate information in packets in accordance with a carrier sense multiple access (CSMA) protocol;

a speaker; and

a control circuit, operatively coupled to the input means, the RF transceiver, and the speaker, for selectively enabling the RF transceiver to transmit data based on data input via the input means and to convert voice data received by the RF transceiver into a voice signal which is output through the speaker.

24. The portable data collection network of claim 23, wherein each of the plurality of portable data terminals further comprises a microphone operatively coupled to the control circuit, the control circuit selectively enabling the RF transceiver to transmit voice data based on an output of the microphone.

25. The portable data collection network of claim 24, wherein the control circuit of each portable data terminal is operative to effect conference calling between at least three different portable data terminals.